(000 tonnes)

Year	Allotment	Offtake	% Offtake
2005-06	Rice-5.739	2.447	42.6
2006-07	Rice-6.108	3.940	64.5
2007-08 (upto September)	Rice-3.054	2.496	81.7

Distribution of substandard ration to card holders in Goa

1202. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of distribution of substandard rice, wheat and other essential commodities to the card-holders in Goa, came to the light;

(b) the reasons for fair price shops getting substandard foodgrains from Government;

(c) whether Government has investigated into the matter;

(d) whether there was any communication between Government and the Goa Administration in this matter;

(e) whether the remedial steps have been taken in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Question does not arise.

Warehousing facilities to farmers

1203. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state what possible steps Government is undertaking to provide proper warehousing facilities to farmers, so as to avoid the post harvest losses of the produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Primarily, there are three Government agencies *i.e.* Central Warehousing Corporation, Food Corporation of India and State Warehousing Corporations which are engaged in building storage/warehousing capacities for foodgrains which provides scientific storage facilities to avoid post harvest losses of the produce.

The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) is having adequate warehousing facilities throughout the country for storage of foodgrains to avoid the post harvest losses of the produces of the farmers. As on 01.10.2007, it had 498 Nos. of General Warehouses having total average capacity of 100.50 lakh MT and the average utilization of 77.70 lakh MT. The total foodgrains stored in the warehouses of CWC were 25.68 lakh MT. CWC offers a rebate of 30% in storage charges to the bona-fied farmers. It has launched Farmers Extension Service Scheme (FESS)